REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mizoguchi** (USP 5,841,466, previously cited) in view of **Ito** (US Pub 2001/0021979, previously cited). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the previous response, it was argued that inhibiting the image input switch SW of **Mizoguchi** from turning on when the passwords do not coincide is not the same as nullifying a key operation by the user because the image input switch SW is **not** a key operational by a user.

The Examiner responds to the previously presented patentability arguments by asserting the following:

> The applicant argues that Mizoguchi fails to teach nullifying the operations of keys of the operation means. The examiner respectfully disagrees, Mizoguchi clearly teaches nullifying said operation of the keys. The applicant fails to specifically define nullify, so *the examiner has interpreted the limitation to mean that when the password does not coincide with a registered password there is no effect on the operation of the display.* [emphasis added] See page 6, lines 6-12 of Office Action.

As will be discussed in detail below, it is submitted that *Mizoguchi does **not** disclose nullifying key operations*, as presently claimed, even if this language is given its broadest reasonable interpretation.

First, as noted above, the Examiner asserts that the term "nullifying" is interpreted to mean that when a password does not coincide with a registered password, [the key operation] has no effect on the operation of the display. In other words, if a key operation is ineffective for any reason, then the key operation is nullified. However, **Mizoguchi** does **not** teach "nullifying" the key operations of the first remote controller 3 and the second remote controller 5.

More specifically, **Mizoguchi** does not teach nullifying the operation of the power switch 12, the reset button 13 and the numerical buttons 14 of the second remote controller 5. In other words, the power switch 12, the reset button 13 and the numerical buttons 14 are operational even if the password does not coincide with the registered password. For example, as shown in Fig. 1A, in steps S15-S17, if the entered password does not coincide, then the password is re-entered. Thus, the numerical buttons 14, which are used to re-enter the password, must **not** be nullified so that the password can be re-entered. Further, the Examiner recognizes that **Mizoguchi** does not teach nullifying operation of the power switch 12 (see Office Action, page 3, lines 3-7).

Second, the first remote controller 3 includes a brightness control knob 9, a gray level control knob 10 and a sound volume control knob 11. However, the operation of each of these control knobs is **not** nullified in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times. More specifically, the operation of these knobs 9, 10 and 11 is **not** nullified when the image input switch SW is OFF (i.e., before the entered password is determined to coincide with the registered password) because the LCD display 22 is operational at this time. As discussed in col. 3, lines 13-23 of **Mizoguchi**, when the

user turns the power supply ON by turning on the power switch 12, the character generator 31 is

used to generate a message regarding eye health that is displayed on the liquid crystal display 22.

The message regarding eye health is displayed on the liquid crystal display 22 *before* the image

input switch SW is switched ON. Accordingly, **Mizoguchi** suggests that the brightness control

knob 9 and the gray level control knob 10 *would have an effect on the operation of the display 22*

while the message regarding eye health is displayed, even if the image input switch is OFF (i.e.,

inhibited). In other words, the brightness and gray level of the display 22 can be adjusted when

the message regarding eye health is displayed. **Mizoguchi** does not disclose or suggest that

operation of these control knobs 9, 10 or the volume knob 11 is inhibited or nullified in any way.

Thus, even when the image input switch SW is OFF, the LCD display 22 can still operate

to display (e.g., messages regarding eye health), and, as a result, the operation of the brightness

control knob 9 and the gray level control knob 10 are not "nullified" because the LCD display

still operates.

Accordingly, in view of the discussion above, it is submitted that **Mizoguchi** does not

disclose or suggest that the operation of any of the buttons or knobs on the first remote controller

3 and second remote controller 5 are nullified or inhibited in response to determining that the

number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times.

Therefore, neither **Mizoguchi** nor **Ito** disclose or suggest *"operation means for operating a*

liquid crystal projector, the operation means including means for entering a command to control

the liquid crystal projector via key entry" and *"...inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal*

projector...by nullifying operation of keys of the operation means...in response to determining

that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times."

Moreover, it is emphasized that the only thing that is nullified in **Mizoguchi** when the password does not coincide is the operation of the image input switch SW and the input of the image signal. However, the image input switch is not a key of an operation means via which a command to control a liquid crystal project is entered, as claimed.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.
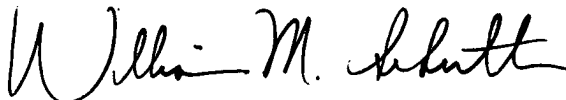
If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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